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Daily News-Sun  
10102 Santa Fe Drive  
Sun City, AZ 85351

After reading your article dealing with new property valuations, "*Fault public officials for sticking it to you*," it struck me that a crucial factor may have been inadvertently omitted. Namely, that the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has been solidly on the side of the taxpayers over the past two years.

In your editorial, you state... "the level at which they (the county assessors) value our collective property matters much less than how much they (the elected folks with taxing authority) decide to take to run the government."

That is certainly correct. Like you, I have long been a proponent of limited government. Nevertheless, your article still fails to differentiate which public officials may be "sticking it to you." I would submit it is not Maricopa County.

During the past few years, Maricopa County has significantly reduced the size of its government workforce and successfully combated the difficult problem of providing mandated services to the fastest growing population in the country. Perhaps more convincing, though, is the fact that over the last 5 years, any increase in collected revenue was designated for mandated health care and criminal justice programs.

And speaking of mandates and the size of government, let us not forget that the state and federal governments continue to mandate county services to the tune of 88.6 percent of the county's general fund.

To put it another way, the Board of Supervisors cannot cut over \$623 million in tax revenue without reducing the essential mandated services which are deemed necessary by the state and federal government.

Despite this heavy burden of increased mandates and swelling population needs, though, all is not lost. Thankfully we have a Maricopa County Board of Supervisors whose majority is committed to a fiscally conservative agenda of reduced government, responsive service, and limited taxation.

Sincerely,  
Janice K. Brewer  
Supervisor – District 4